

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Hungary

SUBJECT Second Peace Loan Drive

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1. On 21 Sep 51 teams of "high pressure salesmen" launched their program to assure the success of the oncoming second peace loan drive. All employees - individuals, laborers, and clerks were urged to subscribe two months' income for this purpose.
2. The government sent confidential word to these teams that most of the miners, industry, and shop laborers should be handled with kid gloves, and that their primary targets should be the so-called intelligentsia.
3. The laborers in shops and industries reacted immediately to the pressure of the people's agitator teams, and served notice that they would not give more than one month's income for the second peace loan drive. The general resistance of the laborers came to the attention of the regime and they agreed to accept the suggested compromise.
4. On 8 Oct 51, the Kossuth radio announced the tremendous success of this peace loan drive, stating that 255,765,600 forints were subscribed over the goal of one billion. This radio announcement was probably a lie because the income of the laborers has decreased since last year, and, consequently, the workers had no surplus from which they could subscribe such an amount. It is generally suspected that money confiscated from the many thousands of deportees paid for this second peace loan drive.
5. The drive was a complete flop as far as the peasants are concerned. The kolhozes are not succeeding and 80% of the land is still in the hands of individual peasants. Hungarian small landowners are still resisting the kolhozes throughout the country. Actually the same thing happened this year as last year - collectors swarmed over the villages and the peasants hardly subscribed anything to the peace loan. Even what little they pledged, they will never pay.

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